

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2004-198-C - ORDER NO. 2004-638
DECEMBER 22, 2004

IN RE: Application of Network US, Inc. DBA CA) ORDER APPROVING
 Affinity (Network) and ConnectAmerica, Inc.) ASSET TRANSFER
 DBA Connect US of Delaware, Inc.)

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Application of Network US, Inc. d/b/a CA Affinity (Network) and Connect America, Inc. d/b/a Connect US of Delaware, Inc. (Connect) for approval to transfer the assets of Connect to Network. According to the Application, the customers of Connect have been given the opportunity to switch their services to a different carrier. Those Connect customers who chose not to switch their service to a different carrier will continue to receive service pursuant to Network's authority. Additionally, The Application notes that no increase in the rates will result from this transaction.

Pursuant to instructions from the Commission Staff, Network and Connect published a Notice of Filing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Companies' areas of service. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were filed. Accordingly, Network and Connect filed a Motion for Expedited Review, along with the verified testimony of Bernard A. Goldman, Executive Vice-President and Assistant Secretary of Network. We grant the expedited review and we grant the relief sought, based on the verified testimony.

Goldman testified that, under the Agreement, Network will acquire substantially all of the telecommunications assets of Connect, including, but not limited to Connect's customer accounts. Both Network and Connect presently hold authority from this Commission. After the transaction, Network will provide service pursuant to its own certification and Connect will cancel its certification. Further, all current Connect customers have been given the opportunity to switch their service from Connect to a different carrier. Those customers of Connect who choose not to switch their service to a different carrier will receive service from Network pursuant to Network's South Carolina authority.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Under the agreement between the two companies, Network will acquire substantially all of the telecommunications assets of Connect, including, but not limited to Connect's customer accounts.
2. Both Network and Connect presently hold authority from this Commission as providers of telecommunications services.
3. After the transaction, Network will provide service pursuant to its own certification and Connect will cancel its certification.
4. All current Connect customers have been given the opportunity to switch their service from Connect to a different carrier.
5. Those customers of Connect who choose not to switch their service to a different carrier will receive service from Network pursuant to Network's South Carolina authority.

6. The transfer of assets, whereby Network will acquire substantially all of the telecommunications assets of Connect, should be approved.

7. Connect should cancel its certification upon completion of the transaction.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The transfer of assets between Network US, Inc. dba CA Affinity and Connect America, Inc. dba Connect US of Delaware, Inc., whereby Network US will acquire substantially all of the telecommunications assets of ConnectAmerica, is hereby approved.

2. ConnectAmerica will cancel its certification upon completion of this transaction.

3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)